IN THE CLAIMS:

1.   (Currently amended) A method in a data processing system for grouping based on attributes, the method comprising:

~~sending messages indicating an availability of a set of attributes relating to data processing systems in which the attributes are used to create groups;~~

maintaining a set of attributes relating to elements in data processing systems, wherein a desired combination of the attributes in a plurality of possible combinations of the attributes is used to create a respective group of elements containing the respective desired combination of the attributes;

upon receipt of a notification that a new attribute can be searched, dynamically updating the set of attributes;

receiving a ~~request~~ query from a requestor ~~to generate a group using selected attributes from the set of attributes;~~ wherein the query includes criteria;

~~dynamically generating a~~ identifying a first group ~~based on the selected attributes;~~ of devices, the attributes of which match the criteria; and

returning the first group to the requestor.

2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the set of attributes include at least one of a processor type, processor clock speed, an amount of memory, memory type, bus system, bus clock speed, storage capacity, connection, video card specification, and operating system.

4.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first group identifies a set of data processing systems.

5.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first group is used to install software to members of the first group.

6.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the requestor is a software process in a data processing system used to request members of the <u>first</u> group.

7.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the <u>first</u> group is generated using non-preexisting data.

8.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the <u>first</u> group is generated using meta-data describing attributes within the set of attributes.

9.   (Currently amended) A data processing system comprising:

a bus system;

a communications unit connected to the bus system;

a ~~memory~~ <u>storage device</u> connected to the bus system, wherein the ~~memory~~ <u>storage device</u> includes as set of instructions; and

a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to ~~send messages indicating a set of attributes relating to data processing systems on which groups are created;~~

        <u>maintain a set of attributes relating to elements in data processing systems, wherein a desired combination of the attributes in a plurality of possible combinations of the attributes is used to create a respective group of devices containing the respective desired combination of the attributes;</u>

        <u>upon receipt of a notification that a new attribute can be searched, dynamically update the set of attributes;</u>

        receive a ~~request~~ <u>query</u> from a requestor<u>, wherein the query includes criteria;</u> ~~to generate a group using selected attributes from the set of attributes;~~ <u>and</u> ~~dynamically generate a~~

        <u>identify a first</u> group ~~based on the selected attributes~~ <u>of devices, the attributes of which match the criteria; and</u>

        return the <u>first</u> group to the requestor.

10.   (Original) The data processing system of claim 9, wherein the bus system is a single bus.

11.   (Cancelled)

12.   (Original) The data processing system of claim 9, wherein the processing unit includes a plurality of processors.

13.   (Original) The data processing system of claim 9, wherein the communications unit is one of a modem and Ethernet adapter.

14.   (Currently amended) A data processing system for grouping based on attributes, the data processing system comprising:

~~sending means for sending messages indicating an availability of a set of attributes relating to data processing systems in which the attributes are used to create groups;~~

maintaining a set of attributes relating to elements in data processing systems, wherein a desired combination of the attributes in a plurality of possible combinations of the attributes is used to create a respective group of elements containing the respective desired combination of the attributes;

upon receipt of a notification that a new attribute can be searched, dynamically updating the set of attributes;

receiving means for receiving a ~~request~~ query from a requestor, ~~to generate a group using selected attributes from the set of attributes~~ wherein the query includes criteria;

~~dynamically generating~~ identifying means for ~~dynamically generating a~~ identifying a first group ~~based on the selected attributes~~ of devices, the attributes of which match the criteria; and

returning means for returning the first group to the requestor.

15.   (Cancelled)

16.   (Original) The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the set of attributes include at least one of a processor type, processor clock speed, an amount of memory, memory type, bus system, bus clock speed, storage capacity, connection, video card specification, and operating system.

17.   (Currently amended) The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the <u>first</u> group identifies a set of data processing systems.

18.   (Original) The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the group is used to install software to members of the group.

19.   (Original) The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the requestor is a software process in a data processing system used to request members of the group.

20.   (Currently amended) The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the <u>first</u> group is generated using non-preexisting data.

21.   (Currently amended) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for grouping based on attributes, the computer program product comprising:

    first instructions for <u>maintaining a set of attributes relating to elements in data processing systems, wherein a desired combination of the attributes in a plurality of possible combinations of the attributes is used to create a respective group of elements containing the respective desired combination of the attributes and upon receipt of a notification that a new attribute can be searched, dynamically updating the set of attributes</u> ~~sending messages indicating an availability of a set of attributes relating to data processing systems in which the attributes are used to create groups;~~

    second instructions for receiving a ~~request~~ <u>query</u> from a requestor<u>, wherein the query includes criteria;</u> ~~to generate a group using selected attributes from the set of attributes;~~

    third instructions for ~~dynamically generating a~~ <u>identifying a first</u> group ~~based on the selected attributes~~ <u>of devices, the attributes of which match the criteria;</u> and

fourth instructions for returning the <u>first</u> group to the requestor.

22.   (Cancelled)

23.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the set of attributes include at least one of a processor type, processor clock speed, an amount of memory, memory type, bus system, bus clock speed, storage capacity, connection, video card specification, and operating system.

24.   (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the <u>first</u> group identifies a set of data processing systems.

25.   (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the <u>first</u> group is used to install software to members of the group.

26.   (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the requestor is a software process in a data processing system used to request members of the <u>first</u> group.

27.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein if the first group has previously been generated, the assembling step retrieves the group from storage and if the group has not previously been generated, the assembling step dynamically generates the group.

28.   (New) The method of claim 9, wherein if the first group has previously been generated, executing the assembling step in the set of instructions retrieves the group from storage and if the group has not previously been generated, executing the assembling step dynamically generates the group.

29.   (New) The method of claim 14, wherein if the first group has previously been generated, the assembling means retrieves the group from storage and if the group has not previously been generated, the assembling means dynamically generates the group.

30.   (New) The computer program product of claim 21, wherein if the first group has previously been generated, the third instructions retrieve the group from storage and if the group has not previously been generated, the third instructions dynamically generate the group.